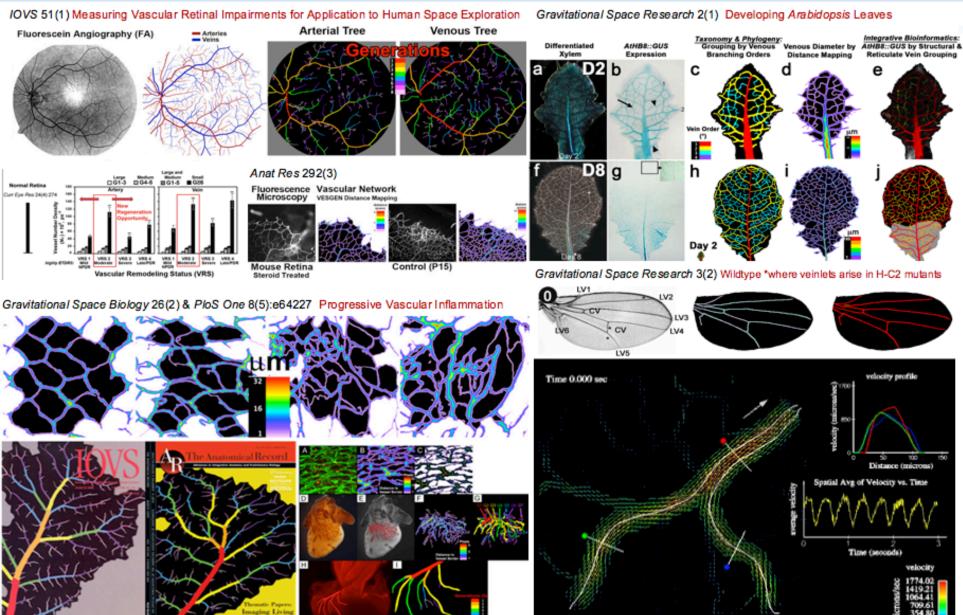


Fractal Branching in Vascular Trees and Networks

by VESsel GENeration Analysis (VESGEN)





Vascular patterning offers an informative multi-scale, fractal readout of regulatory signaling by complex molecular pathways. Understanding such molecular crosstalk is important for physiological, pathological and therapeutic research in Space Biology and Astronaut countermeasures. When mapped and quantified by NASA's innovative VESsel GENeration Analysis (VESGEN) software, remodeling vascular patterns become useful biomarkers that advance our understanding of the response of biology and human health to challenges such as microgravity and radiation in space environments. CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS, approximate clockwise order. Peter K. Kaiser MD, Jon Sears MD & Quteba Ebrahem MD, Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH; Krishnan Radhakrishnan MD PhD MPH, US Dept of Veterans Affairs, West Haven, CT; Mary Vickerman MS & Mark Wernet PhD, NASA Glenn Research Center, Cleveland, OH; Patricia Parsons-Wingerter PhD, NASA Ames Research Center, Mountain View, CA; Michiko Watanabe PhD & Monica Montano PhD, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH; Hans-Christian Reinecker MD, Harvard Medical School & Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA